United Nations A/59/483/Add.2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 December 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 85 (b)

Sustainable development: further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Azanaw Tadesse **Abreha** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 85 (see A/59/483, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 18th, 27th and 34th meetings, on 27 October and 5 and 16 November 2004. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/59/SR.18, 27 and 34).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.10 and A/C.2/59/L.27

2. At the 18th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/59/L.10), which read:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/59/483 and Add.1-7.

04-64542 (E) 181204

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and recalling also its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference,

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 58/213 A of 23 December 2003 and 58/213 B of 10 June 2004,

"*Recalling further* the offer by the Government of Mauritius to host the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"*Welcoming* the preparatory activities undertaken at the national, regional and international levels for the International Meeting,

"1. *Recalls* its decision to convene the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States from 10 to 14 January 2005;

"2. *Decides* to hold two days of informal consultations in Mauritius, on 8 and 9 January 2005, to facilitate the effective preparation of the International Meeting;

"3. *Urges* that representation and participation at the International Meeting be at the highest level;

"4. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which convened a preparatory meeting for the International Meeting;

"5. *Approves* the organization of work and annotated agenda of the International Meeting, as contained in the note by the Secretary-General;

"6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contributions made to the voluntary trust fund established for the purpose of assisting small island developing States to participate fully and effectively in the International Meeting and its preparatory process, as approved by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/55 and decision 2003/283, and urges all Member States and organizations to contribute generously to the fund;

"7. *Decides* that non-governmental organizations whose work is relevant to the subject of the International Meeting that are not currently accredited to the Economic and Social Council may submit applications to participate as observers in the International Meeting not later than 31 October 2004, subject to the approval of the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, and reiterates that the participation of major groups, including non-governmental organizations, in the International Meeting shall be in accordance with rule 65 of the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting;

"8. *Reiterates* its request that the Secretary-General strengthen the Small Island Developing States Unit within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to enable it to effectively assist in the

preparations for the comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and in the implementation of the outcome of the International Meeting, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the Unit and the Small Island Developing States Network by providing the resources and professional and support staff necessary to undertake a broad range of functions in support of the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action and the outcome of the International Meeting, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 123 of the Programme of Action and as called for in General Assembly resolutions 56/198 of 21 December 2001 and 57/262 of 20 December 2002;

"9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', a sub-item entitled 'Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: follow-up to the outcomes of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States', and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session the report of the International Meeting."

3. At the 27th meeting, on 5 November, the Facilitator, Mark Ramsden (New Zealand), on behalf of the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Ewa Anzorge (Poland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/59/L.27), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.10.

4. At the same meeting, the representative of New Zealand orally corrected operative paragraph 3, by replacing the words "at the highest level" with the words "at the highest possible level".

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.27, as orally corrected, without a vote (see para. 16, draft resolution I).

6. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Cuba; after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of New Zealand and Mauritius (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Alliance of Small Island States).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.27, draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.10 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.17 and A/C.2/59/L.34

8. At the 18th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development" (A/C.2/59/L.17), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

"*Recalling* the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

"*Taking into account* all other relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999, 55/203 of 20 December 2000 and 57/261 of 20 December 2002,

"*Taking into account also* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'),

"*Noting with interest* the respective partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by Governments, international organizations and major groups and announced at the Summit,

"*Recalling* the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the overall legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

"*Emphasizing* the importance of national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector as recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

"*Recalling* the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983, which contains the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

"*Welcoming* the adoption, on 6 October 1999 in Aruba, of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

"*Welcoming also* the entry into force, on 18 June 2000, of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

"*Recalling* the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization and its designation of the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area, under annex V to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto,

"*Considering* that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile, structurally weak

and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

"*Recognizing* that the Caribbean Sea has a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystem,

"*Emphasizing* that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change, climate variability and associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

"*Bearing in mind* the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

"*Recognizing* the Caribbean Environment Outlook process currently being undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme, and welcoming the support being provided by the Caribbean Environment Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme towards its implementation,

"*Acknowledging* that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, present a challenge for the effective management of the resources,

"*Noting* the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage, as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

"*Taking note* of relevant resolutions of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on safety of transport of radioactive materials and paragraph 35 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,

"*Mindful* of the diversity and dynamic interaction and competition among socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

"*Mindful also* of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the Caribbean Sea area and, in so doing, to promote an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

"*Underlining* the importance of the ongoing work of Working Group I, on climate and disasters, established by the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction,

"*Noting* the efforts of the Caribbean countries, within the framework of the Association of Caribbean States, to develop further support for their

concept of the Caribbean Sea as an area of special importance, in the context of sustainable development and in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

"*Welcoming* the decision by the Association of Caribbean States to establish the Technical Advisory Group to further advance the Caribbean Sea Initiative and the implementation of resolutions 55/203 and 57/261, inter alia, through the preparation of a technical report,

"*Cognizant* of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and to the heritage and the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area, and the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Takes note also* of the report of the Association of Caribbean States, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/261;

"3. *Recognizes* the importance of adopting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

"4. *Encourages* the further promotion of an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, in accordance with the recommendations contained in resolution 54/225, as well as the provisions of Agenda 21, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in conformity with relevant international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

"5. *Also encourages* the continued efforts of the Caribbean countries to develop further an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development and, in this regard, to continue to develop regional cooperation in the management of their ocean affairs in the context of sustainable development, in order to address such issues as land-based pollution, pollution from ships, physical impacts on coral reefs and the diversity and dynamic interaction of, and competition among, socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources;

"6. *Welcomes* the wide range of meaningful activities being implemented within the scope of the mandate of resolution 57/261, with a view to promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

"7. *Recognizes* the efforts of Caribbean countries to create conditions leading to sustainable development aimed at combating poverty and inequality, and in this regard welcomes the initiatives of the Association of Caribbean States in the focal areas of sustainable tourism, trade, transport and natural disasters;

"8. *Invites* States to ratify or accede to and implement the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

"9. *Calls upon* States to continue to prioritize action on marine pollution from land-based sources as part of their national sustainable development strategies and programmes, in an integrated and inclusive manner, and also calls upon them to advance the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;

"10. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and from illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards;

"11. *Calls upon* all relevant States to take the necessary steps to bring into force, and to support the implementation of, the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region in order to protect the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from land-based pollution and degradation;

"12. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of the Association of Caribbean States to further implement General Assembly resolutions 55/203 and 57/261, and invites the Association to submit a report on its progress to the Secretary-General for consideration during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly;

"13. *Calls upon* all States to become contracting parties to relevant international agreements to enhance maritime safety and promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution, damage and degradation from ships and ship-generated waste;

"14. *Supports* the efforts of Caribbean countries to implement sustainable fisheries management programmes by strengthening the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism;

"15. *Calls upon* States, taking into consideration the Convention on Biological Diversity, to develop national, regional and international programmes for halting the loss of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea, in particular fragile ecosystems, such as coral reefs;

"16. *Invites* intergovernmental organizations within the United Nations system to increase their efforts to assist Caribbean countries in becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols and in implementing them effectively;

"17. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, and invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support actively national and regional activities towards the above-mentioned approach;

"18. *Expresses deep concern* over the severe destruction and devastation caused to several countries by heightened hurricane activity in the Caribbean region in 2004;

"19. *Urges* the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide aid and assistance to the Caribbean region in the implementation of long-term programmes of disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery, based on their development priorities, through the integration of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction into a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

"20. *Calls upon* Member States to improve as a matter of priority their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or of an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

"21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-first session, under the sub-item entitled 'Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States' of the item entitled 'Sustainable development', on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations."

9. At the 34th meeting, on 16 November, the Facilitator, Mark Ramsden (New Zealand), on behalf of the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Ewa Anzorge (Poland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development" (A/C.2/59/L.34), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.17.

10. Also at the 34th meeting, the Committee voted on the fourteenth preambular paragraph, which was retained by a recorded vote of 121 to 1, with 3 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste,

Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Japan.

11. Before the adoption of the fourteenth preambular paragraph, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America.

12. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Barbados (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Caribbean Community, as well as Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Panama and Nicaragua) and Qatar (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China).

13. The Committee then adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.34 as a whole without a vote (see para. 16, draft resolution II).

14. Before the adoption of the draft resolution as a whole, a statement was made by the representative of Venezuela.

15. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.34, draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.17 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

16. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of Barbados[1] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[2] adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and recalling also its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference,

Recalling also its resolutions 58/213 A of 23 December 2003 and 58/213 B of 15 June 2004,

Recalling with appreciation the offer by the Government of Mauritius to host the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Welcoming the preparatory activities undertaken at the national, regional and international levels for the International Meeting,

1. *Recalls* its decision, in resolution 58/213 B, to convene the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States from 10 to 14 January 2005;

2. *Decides* to hold two days of informal consultations in Mauritius, on 8 and 9 January 2005, to facilitate the effective preparation of the International Meeting;

3. *Urges* that representation and participation at the International Meeting be at the highest possible level;

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development, acting as the preparatory meeting for the International Meeting;[3]

5. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contributions made to the voluntary trust fund established for the purpose of assisting small island developing States to participate fully and effectively in the International Meeting and its preparatory process, as approved by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/55 and decision 2003/283,[4] and urges all Member States and organizations to contribute generously to the fund;

---

[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] A/CONF.207/3.

[4] See also A/C.2/58/4.

6. *Decides* that non-governmental organizations whose work is relevant to the subject of the International Meeting, which are not currently accredited to the Economic and Social Council, and which submitted applications to participate as observers in the International Meeting by 31 October 2004, may participate as observers in the International Meeting, subject to the approval of the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, and in this regard recalls that the participation of major groups, including non-governmental organizations, in the International Meeting shall be in accordance with rule 65 of the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting;[5]

7. *Stresses* that strengthening of the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has yet to take place, and in this regard reiterates its request to the Secretary-General, as called for in General Assembly resolutions 57/262 of 20 December 2002 and 58/213 A of 23 December 2003, to strengthen the Unit without delay and, within existing resources, to enable the Unit, including the Small Island Developing States Network, to undertake its broad range of mandated functions with a view to facilitating the full and effective implementation of the Declaration of Barbados[1] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[2] and the outcomes of the International Meeting;

8. *Invites* the International Meeting to consider fully the modalities for strengthening the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, including the Small Island Developing States Network, to enable it to assist effectively in the implementation of the outcomes of the International Meeting;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session the report of the International Meeting, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and follow-up to the outcomes of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action".

[5] A/58/567 and Corr.1.

Draft resolution II
Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[1] and the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados[2] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

Recalling the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,[4]

Taking into account all other relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999, 55/203 of 20 December 2000 and 57/261 of 20 December 2002,

Taking into account also the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[5] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[6]

Noting with interest the respective partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by Governments, international organizations and major groups and announced at the Summit,

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[7] which provides the overall legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

---

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales. No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution I, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] See resolution S-22/2, annex.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[6] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[7] See *The Law of the Sea: Official Texts of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and of the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 with Index and Excerpts from the Final Act of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.V.10).

Emphasizing the importance of national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector as recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[8]

Recalling the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983,[9] which contains the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

Welcoming the adoption, on 6 October 1999 in Aruba, of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities[10] to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

Welcoming also the entry into force, on 18 June 2000, of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife[10] to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and the establishment by the United Nations Environment Programme of the Regional Activities Centre in Guadaloupe to assist in the implementation of the Protocol,

Recalling the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

Considering that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile, structurally weak and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

Recognizing that the Caribbean Sea has a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystem,

Emphasizing that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change, climate variability and associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

Expressing deep concern over the severe destruction and devastation caused to several countries by heightened hurricane activity in the Caribbean region in 2004,

Recognizing national and regional efforts to undertake disaster preparedness, response and mitigation efforts to minimize the impact of natural disasters, and reiterating the responsibility of all States in that regard,

---

[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1506, No. 25974.

[10] Available on the Internet at www.cep.unep.org/law/lbsmpnut.htm.

Bearing in mind the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

Recognizing the Caribbean Environment Outlook process currently being undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme, and welcoming the support being provided by the Caribbean Environment Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme towards its implementation,

Acknowledging that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, present a challenge for the effective management of the resources,

Noting the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage, as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on safety of transport of radioactive materials,

Mindful of the diversity and dynamic interaction and competition among socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

Mindful also of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the Caribbean Sea area and, in so doing, to promote an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

Noting the importance of the ongoing work of the Working Group on climate change and disaster risk reduction, established by the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction,

Noting the efforts of the Caribbean countries, within the framework of the Association of Caribbean States, to develop further support for their concept of the Caribbean Sea as an area of special importance, in the context of sustainable development and in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

Welcoming the decision by the Association of Caribbean States to establish the Technical Advisory Group to further advance the Caribbean Sea Initiative and the implementation of resolutions 55/203 and 57/261, inter alia, through the preparation of a technical report,

Cognizant of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and to the heritage and the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area, and the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[11]

2. *Takes note also* of the report of the Association of Caribbean States,[12] pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/261;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of adopting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

4. *Encourages* the further promotion of an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, in accordance with the recommendations contained in resolution 54/225, as well as the provisions of Agenda 21,[8] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly,[4] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[5] the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[6] and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in conformity with relevant international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;[7]

5. *Also encourages* the continued efforts of the Caribbean countries to develop further an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development and, in this regard, to continue to develop regional cooperation in the management of their ocean affairs in the context of sustainable development, in order to address such issues as land-based pollution, pollution from ships, physical impacts on coral reefs and the diversity and dynamic interaction of, and competition among, socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources;

6. *Welcomes* the wide range of activities being implemented within the scope of the mandate of resolution 57/261, with a view to promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

7. *Recognizes* the efforts of Caribbean countries to create conditions leading to sustainable development aimed at combating poverty and inequality, and in this regard notes with interest the initiatives of the Association of Caribbean States in the focal areas of sustainable tourism, trade, transport and natural disasters;

8. *Calls upon* States to continue to prioritize action on marine pollution from land-based sources as part of their national sustainable development strategies and programmes, in an integrated and inclusive manner, and also calls upon them to advance the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities[13] and the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;[14]

9. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and from illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous

[11] A/59/173.

[12] Ibid., annex.

[13] A/51/116, annex II.

[14] E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/15, annex, sect. I.

waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

10. *Calls upon* all relevant States to take the necessary steps to bring into force, and to support the implementation of, the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities[10] to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region[9] in order to protect the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from land-based pollution and degradation;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to support the efforts of the Association of Caribbean States to further implement General Assembly resolutions 55/203 and 57/261, and invites the Association to submit a report on its progress to the Secretary-General for consideration during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly;

12. *Calls upon* all States to become contracting parties to relevant international agreements to enhance maritime safety and promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution, damage and degradation from ships and ship-generated waste;

13. *Supports* the efforts of Caribbean countries to implement sustainable fisheries management programmes by strengthening the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism;

14. *Calls upon* States, taking into consideration the Convention on Biological Diversity,[15] to develop national, regional and international programmes for halting the loss of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea, in particular fragile ecosystems, such as coral reefs;

15. *Invites* intergovernmental organizations within the United Nations system to continue their efforts to assist Caribbean countries in becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols and in implementing them effectively;

16. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, and invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support actively national and regional activities towards the above-mentioned approach;

17. *Urges* the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide aid and assistance to the countries of the Caribbean region in the implementation of their long-term programmes of disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery, based on their development priorities, through the integration of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction into a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

18. *Calls upon* Member States to improve as a matter of priority their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or of an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

---

[15] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-first session, under the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" of the item entitled "Sustainable development", on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations.

United Nations A/59/483/Add.2/Corr.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 December 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 85 (b)

Sustainable development: further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Azanaw Tadesse **Abreha** (Ethiopia)

Corrigendum

Section I

After paragraph 10, the following heading and paragraph should be inserted and subsequent paragraphs renumbered accordingly:

C. Oral draft decision on the accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

11. At the 37th meeting, on 3 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to adopt an oral draft decision entitled "Accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".

Section III

After draft resolution II, the following paragraph and draft decision should be inserted:

17. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

04-66908 (E) 301204

Draft decision

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly decides to approve the participation of the non-governmental organizations contained in document A/59/409 and Corr.1 as observers to the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in January 2005, in accordance with rule 65 of the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting.

United Nations A/59/483/Add.3

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 December 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 85 (c)

Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Azanaw Tadesse **Abreha** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 85 (see A/59/483, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 18th, 27th, 32nd and 36th meetings, on 27 October and 5, 15 and 24 November 2004. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/59/SR.18, 27, 32 and 36).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.7 and A/C.2/59/L.31

2. At the 18th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, Japan and Mexico, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/59/L.7), which read as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001, 57/256 of 20 December 2002 and 58/214 of 23 December 2003 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/59/483 and Add.1-7.

04-64918 (E) 181204

"*Reiterating* that, although natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development,

"*Recognizing* the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, especially in developing countries, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to tackle natural disasters effectively,

"*Expressing its deep concern* at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters within recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries,

"*Emphasizing* that disaster reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

"*Stressing* the importance of advancing the implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in particular on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

"2. *Welcomes* the ongoing preparatory process for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, which is to be held in Kobe, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005;

"3. "*Notes with appreciation* the generous pledge made by the Government of Japan to cover costs of the World Conference, and invites the international community to make voluntary contributions to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in that event;

"4. *Reiterates* its invitation to Member States, all United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental agencies and organizations, in particular the members of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, to participate actively in the World Conference;

"5. *Encourages* major groups, as identified in the Agenda 21, to contribute further to and actively participate in the World Conference, according to the rules of procedure agreed upon by its Preparatory Committee;

"6. *Stresses* the importance of identifying, assessing and managing risks prior to the occurrence of disasters, for which it is necessary to combine the efforts at all levels of the development, humanitarian, scientific and environmental communities, as well as the importance of integrating disaster reduction into development plans and poverty eradication programmes;

"7. *Stresses also* the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters, as well as to build and strengthen coping capacities

through, inter alia, the transfer and exchange of experiences and technical knowledge, access to relevant data and information and the strengthening of institutional arrangements, including community-based organizations;

"8. *Calls upon* Governments to establish national platforms or focal points for disaster reduction and to strengthen them where they already exist, urges the United Nations system to provide appropriate support for those mechanisms, and invites the Secretary-General to strengthen the regional outreach of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy in order to ensure such support;

"9. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, in his capacity as Chair of the Inter-agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, to review annually the work carried out by its working groups in order to ensure their effective contribution to the attainment of the objectives of the Strategy;

"10. *Expresses its appreciation* to those countries that have provided financial support for the activities of the Strategy by making voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

"11. *Encourages* the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to the Trust Fund for the Strategy and to provide the necessary scientific, technical, human and other resources to ensure adequate support for the activities of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy and the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and its working groups;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to allocate adequate financial and administrative resources, within existing resources, for the effective functioning of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy;

"13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the outcome of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development'."

3. At the 32nd meeting, on 15 November, the Facilitator, Stefano Toscano (Switzerland), on behalf of the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ewa Anzorge (Poland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/59/L.31), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.7. In introducing the draft resolution, the Vice-Chairperson orally corrected it by deleting, in the ninth preambular paragraph, the words "preparations for" after the words "working group on" and by adding the word "Hyogo" after the word "Kobe" in operative paragraph 3.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.31.

5. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Chile and Peru.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.31, as orally corrected (see para. 16, draft resolution I).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.31, draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.7 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.8 and A/C.2/59/L.23

8. At the 18th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, and Mexico introduced a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño Phenomenon" (A/C.2/59/L.23), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999, 55/197 of 20 December 2000, 56/194 of 21 December 2001 and 57/255 of 20 December 2002 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999, 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2000/33 of 28 July 2000,

"*Noting* that the El Niño phenomenon has a recurring character and that it can lead to extensive natural hazards with the potential seriously to affect humankind,

"*Reaffirming* the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by natural disasters that result from the El Niño phenomenon,

"*Noting* that technological developments and international cooperation have enhanced the capabilities for the prediction of the El Niño phenomenon and thereby the potential for the preventive actions that may be taken to reduce its negative impacts,

"*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), in particular paragraph 37 (i) thereof,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in particular the section entitled 'International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon';

"2. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Ecuador, the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction which led to the establishment of the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and to its opening in February 2003, and encourages those parties to continue their efforts for the advancement of the Centre;

"3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and encourages the international community to adopt, as appropriate, the necessary measures to support the development of the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño

Phenomenon, and invites the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for this purpose, as well as to strengthen, as appropriate, other centres devoted to the study of the El Niño phenomenon;

"4. *Encourages* the Centre to strengthen its links, as appropriate, with national meteorological and hydrological services of the Latin American region, the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research and the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, as well as with other relevant regional and global organizations that study climate, such as the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development, the Drought Monitoring Centre and the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research, and other relevant centres, as appropriate, in order to ensure the effective and efficient use of the available resources;

"5. *Underscores* the importance of maintaining the El Niño/Southern Oscillation observation system, continuing research into extreme weather events, improving forecasting skills and developing appropriate policies for reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and other extreme weather events and emphasizes the need further to develop and strengthen these institutional capacities in all countries, in particular in developing countries;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development'."

9. At the 27th meeting, on 5 November, the Facilitator, Stefano Toscano (Switzerland), on behalf of the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ewa Anzorge (Poland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon" (A/C.2/59/L.23), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.8.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.23 (see para. 16, draft resolution II).

11. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.23, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.8 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.11 and A/C.2/59/L.45

12. At the 18th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Natural disasters and vulnerability" (A/C.2/59/L.11), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its decision 57/547 of 20 December 2002 and its resolution 58/215 of 23 December 2003,

"*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on

Sustainable Development, adopted by the World Summit, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

"*Recognizing* the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters and to build and further strengthen community capacity to cope with disaster risks,

"*Noting* that the global environment continues to suffer degradation, adding to economic and social vulnerabilities, in particular in developing countries,

"*Taking into account* the various ways and forms in which all countries, in particular the more vulnerable countries, are affected by severe natural hazards such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions and extreme weather events such as heat waves, severe droughts, floods and storms, and the El Niño/La Niña events, which have global reach,

"*Recognizing* that the impact of natural disasters upon increasingly vulnerable countries is becoming a significant obstacle to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in particular those relating to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability,

"*Expressing deep concern* at the substantial increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters and their increasing economic, social and environmental impact, in particular on developing countries, and also expressing concern that this trend is likely to continue in the future,

"*Taking into account* that extreme weather events and associated natural disasters and their reduction must be dealt with in a coherent and effective manner,

"*Expressing* its deep concern at the enormous negative impact of severe natural hazards, including extreme weather events and associated natural disasters, which continues to hinder social and economic progress, in particular in developing countries,

"*Recognizing* that the small island developing States are located in the most vulnerable regions in the world in terms of the intensity and frequency of natural and environmental disasters and their increasing impact, and that they face disproportionately great economic, social and environmental consequences,

"*Stressing* that national authorities need to undertake disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts, in particular through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, so as to enhance the resilience of populations to disasters and reduce risks to them, their livelihoods, the social and economic infrastructure and environmental resources,

"*Noting* the need for international cooperation to increase the capacity of countries to respond to the negative impacts of all natural hazards, including

extreme weather events and associated natural disasters, particularly in developing countries,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in particular the separate section on natural disasters and vulnerability;

"2. *Urges* the international community to continue to address ways and means, including through cooperation and technical assistance, to reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters, including those caused by extreme weather events, in particular in vulnerable developing countries, through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and encourages the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to continue its work in this regard;

"3. *Stresses* the importance of enforcement by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction of the implementation of relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on natural disasters and vulnerability, as well as the results of the review of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and other relevant processes, bearing in mind the vital importance of addressing the adverse effects of natural disasters in the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

"4. *Emphasizes* that the World Conference on Disaster Reduction should take concrete steps towards reducing the risk and vulnerabilities of all countries, in particular developing countries, relating to disasters, including through the provision of technical and financial assistance, as well as through the strengthening or establishment of institutional mechanisms, including at the regional level, where appropriate;

"5. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with the United Nations system and other stakeholders, to strengthen capacity-building in the most vulnerable regions, to enable them to address the socio-economic factors that increase vulnerability, and encourages the international community to provide effective assistance to developing countries in this regard;

"6. *Also encourages* the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to enhance the coordination on the promotion of disaster reduction as well as to make available to the relevant United Nations entities information on options for natural disaster reduction, including severe natural hazards and extreme weather-related disasters and vulnerabilities;

"7. *Encourages* the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to continue to address the adverse effects of climate change, especially in those developing countries that are particularly vulnerable, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and also encourages the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to continue to assess the adverse effects of climate change on the socio-economic and natural disaster reduction systems of developing countries;

"8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution in a separate section of his report on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and decides to consider the issue of natural disasters and vulnerability at that session, under the sub-item 'International Strategy for Disaster Reduction' of the item entitled 'Sustainable development'."

13. At the 36th meeting, on 24 November, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ewa Anzorge (Poland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Natural disasters and vulnerability" (A/C.2/59/L.45), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.11. In introducing the draft resolution, the Vice-Chairperson orally corrected it by replacing, in preambular paragraph 10, the words "including disaster preparedness and mitigation strategies" with the words "including disaster preparedness, mitigation"; by inserting the words "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" after the words "strengthening of" in operative paragraph 4; by inserting, in operative paragraph 5, the words "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" after the word "respective"; and, in operative paragraph 7, by deleting the words "resources and expertise" and re-inserting them after the word "available".

14. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.45, as orally corrected (see para. 16, draft resolution III).

15. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.45, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.11 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

16. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
International strategy for disaster reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001, 57/256 of 20 December 2002 and 58/214 of 23 December 2003 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001, and taking into due consideration its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling also the inclusion of the item entitled "disaster management and vulnerability" in the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development,[1]

Reiterating that, although natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development,

Recognizing the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to build resilience to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to tackle natural disasters effectively,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact within recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries,

Recognizing the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters and to build and further strengthen community capability to cope with disaster risks,

Emphasizing that disaster reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29), chap. I, sect. A.

Stressing the importance of advancing the implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[2] and its relevant provisions on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management,

Noting the ongoing work of all the working groups established by the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, namely the working group on climate change and disaster risk reduction, the working group on disaster reduction in Africa, the working group on risk, vulnerability and disaster impact assessment and the working group on the World Conference on Disaster Reduction,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;[3]

2. *Invites* Governments and relevant international organizations to consider disaster risk assessment as an integral component of development plans and poverty eradication programmes;

3. *Welcomes* the work of the ongoing preparatory process for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, which is to be held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the generous pledge made by the Government of Japan to cover costs of the World Conference, and welcomes the voluntary contributions already made to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in that event, and invites those States that have not yet done so to make such voluntary contributions;

5. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States, all United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental agencies and organizations, in particular the members of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, to participate actively in the World Conference;

6. *Encourages* major groups, as identified in Agenda 21,[4] to contribute further to and actively participate in the World Conference, according to the rules of procedure agreed upon by its Preparatory Committee;

7. *Stresses* the importance of close cooperation and coordination between the relevant institutions, in particular within the United Nations system and with other relevant international organizations, in both the preparation of and follow-up to the World Conference, within their mandate and taking into account their comparative advantages and the need to avoid any duplication of work;

8. *Also stresses* that continued cooperation and coordination among Governments, the United Nations system, other organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners, as appropriate, are considered essential to address effectively the impact of natural disasters;

---

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] A/59/228.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

9. *Recognizes* the importance of linking disaster risk management with regional frameworks, as appropriate, such as with the New Partnership for Africa's Development, to address issues of poverty eradication and sustainable development;

10. *Also recognizes* the importance of integrating a gender perspective as well as of engaging women in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster management, particularly in the disaster reduction stage;

11. *Stresses* the importance of identifying, assessing and managing risks prior to the occurrence of disasters, for which it is necessary to combine the efforts at all levels of the development, humanitarian, scientific and environmental communities, as well as the importance of integrating disaster reduction, as appropriate, into development plans and poverty eradication programmes;

12. *Also stresses* the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters, as well as to build and strengthen coping capacities through, inter alia, the transfer and exchange of experiences and technical knowledge, access to relevant data and information and the strengthening of institutional arrangements, including community-based organizations;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of early warning as an essential element of disaster reduction, recommends the implementation of the outcome of the Second International Conference on Early Warning, held in Bonn, Germany, from 16 to 18 October 2003, and takes note of further work done in this regard, including the establishment of the Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning[5] in Bonn;

14. *Calls upon* Governments to establish national platforms or focal points for disaster reduction, encourages the platforms to share relevant information on standards and practices, encourages Governments to strengthen platforms where they already exist, urges the United Nations system to provide appropriate support for those mechanisms, and invites the Secretary-General to strengthen the regional outreach of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy in order to ensure such support;

15. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, in his capacity as Chairman of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, to continue reviewing annually the work carried out by its working groups in order to ensure their effective contribution to the attainment of the objectives of the Strategy;

16. *Expresses its appreciation* to those countries that have provided financial support for the activities of the Strategy by making voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

17. *Encourages* the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to the Trust Fund for the Strategy and to provide the necessary scientific, technical, human and other resources to ensure adequate support for the activities of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy and the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and its working groups;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to allocate adequate financial and administrative resources, within existing resources, for the effective functioning of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy;

---

[5] A/CONF.206/PC(II)/4, para. 14 (ix).

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the outcome of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, under the item entitled "Sustainable development".

Draft resolution II
International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999, 55/197 of 20 December 2000, 56/194 of 21 December 2001 and 57/255 of 20 December 2002 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999, 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2000/33 of 28 July 2000,

Noting that the El Niño phenomenon has a recurring character and that it can lead to extensive natural hazards with the potential seriously to affect humankind,

Reaffirming the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by natural disasters that result from the El Niño phenomenon,

Noting that technological developments and international cooperation have enhanced the capabilities for the prediction of the El Niño phenomenon and thereby the potential for the preventive actions that may be taken to reduce its negative impacts,

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[1] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2] in particular paragraph 37 (i) thereof,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,[3] in particular the section entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon";

2. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Ecuador, the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction which led to the establishment of the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and to its opening in February 2003, and encourages those parties to continue their efforts for the advancement of the Centre;

3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and encourages the international community to adopt, as appropriate, the necessary measures to support the development of the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon, and invites the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation

---

[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[3] A/59/228.

for this purpose, as well as to strengthen, as appropriate, other centres devoted to the study of the El Niño phenomenon;

4. *Encourages* the Centre to strengthen its links, as appropriate, with national meteorological and hydrological services of the Latin American region, the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research and the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, as well as with other relevant regional and global organizations that study climate, such as the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development, the Drought Monitoring Centre and the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research, and other relevant centres, as appropriate, in order to ensure the effective and efficient use of the available resources;

5. *Underscores* the importance of maintaining the El Niño/Southern Oscillation observation system, continuing research into extreme weather events, improving forecasting skills and developing appropriate policies for reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and other extreme weather events and emphasizes the need further to develop and strengthen these institutional capacities in all countries, in particular in developing countries;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled "Sustainable development".

Draft resolution III
Natural disasters and vulnerability

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 57/547 of 20 December 2002 and its resolution 58/215 of 23 December 2003,

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[1] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[2] adopted by the World Summit, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

Recognizing the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters, to build and further strengthen community capacity to cope with disaster risks and to enhance resilience against hazards associated with disasters,

Noting that the global environment continues to suffer degradation, adding to economic and social vulnerabilities, in particular in developing countries,

Taking into account the various ways and forms in which all countries, in particular the more vulnerable countries, are affected by severe natural hazards such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions and such extreme weather events as heat waves, severe droughts, floods and storms, and the El Niño/La Niña events, which have global reach,

Recognizing that the impact of natural disasters upon vulnerable countries is, among others, a significant obstacle to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] in particular those relating to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability,

Expressing deep concern at the recent increases in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters in some regions of the world and their substantial economic, social and environmental impacts, in particular upon developing countries in those regions,

Taking into account that extreme weather events and associated natural disasters and their reduction must be dealt with in a coherent and effective manner,

Expressing its deep concern at the increasing negative impact of severe natural hazards, including earthquakes, extreme weather events and associated natural disasters, which continues to hinder social and economic progress, in particular in developing countries,

Stressing the need to develop and implement risk-reduction strategies, including disaster preparedness, mitigation and early warning systems at all levels, and to integrate them, where appropriate, into national development plans, in particular through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster

---

[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

Reduction, so as to enhance the resilience of populations to disasters and reduce the risks to them, their livelihoods, the social and economic infrastructure and environmental resources,

Recognizing that the development of stronger institutions, mechanisms and capacities, including at the community level, that can systematically build resilience to hazards and disasters is essential to reducing the risks and vulnerability of population to disasters,

Noting the need for international cooperation to increase the capacity of countries to respond to the negative impacts of all natural hazards, including earthquakes, extreme weather events and associated natural disasters, particularly in developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,[4] in particular section II, on natural disasters and vulnerability;

2. *Urges* the international community to continue to address ways and means, including through cooperation and technical assistance, to reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters, including those caused by extreme weather events, in particular in vulnerable developing countries, through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and encourages the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to continue its work in this regard;

3. *Stresses* the importance for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction to conclude the review of the Yokohama Strategy and its plan of action, with a view to updating the guiding framework on disaster reduction for the twenty-first century, and to identify specific activities aimed at ensuring the implementation of relevant provisions of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[2] on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management, bearing in mind the vital importance of addressing the adverse effects of natural disasters in efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[3]

4. *Emphasizes* that the World Conference on Disaster Reduction should, within its mandate as set out in General Assembly resolution 58/214 of 23 December 2003, make concrete recommendations to reduce the risks and vulnerabilities of all countries, in particular developing countries, in relation to disasters, including through the provision of technical and financial assistance, as well as through the strengthening of International Strategy for Disaster Reduction national platforms for disaster reduction or the establishment of institutional mechanisms, including at the regional level, where appropriate;

5. *Encourages* Governments, through their respective International Strategy for Disaster Reduction national platforms and national focal points for disaster reduction, in cooperation with the United Nations system and other stakeholders, to strengthen capacity-building in the most vulnerable regions, to enable them to address the socio-economic factors that increase vulnerability, and to develop measures that will enable them to prepare for and cope with natural disasters, including those associated with earthquakes and extreme weather events, and

[4] A/59/228.

encourages the international community to provide effective assistance to developing countries in this regard;

6. *Also encourages* the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to continue to enhance the coordination of activities to promote disaster reduction and to make available to the relevant United Nations entities information on options for natural disaster reduction, including severe natural hazards and extreme weather-related disasters and vulnerabilities;

7. *Stresses* the importance of close cooperation and coordination among Governments, the United Nations system, other organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners as appropriate, taking into account the need for the development of disaster management strategies, including the effective establishment of early warning systems, where appropriate, while taking advantage of all available resources and expertise for that purpose;

8. *Encourages* the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[5] and the parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[6] to continue to address the adverse effects of climate change, especially in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and also encourages the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to continue to assess the adverse effects of climate change on the socio-economic and natural disaster reduction systems of developing countries;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution in a separate section of his report on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,[4] and decides to consider the issue of natural disasters and vulnerability at that session, under the sub-item "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" of the item entitled "Sustainable development".

---

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[6] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

United Nations A/59/483/Add.4

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 December 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 85 (d)

Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Azanaw Tadesse **Abreha** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 85 (see A/59/483, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 18th and 36th meetings, on 27 October and 24 November 2004. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/59/SR.18 and 36).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.13 and A/C.2/59/L.30

2. At the 18th meeting, on 27 October 2004, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/59/L.13), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolution 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and its resolutions 56/199 of 21 December 2001, 57/257 of 20 December 2002 and 58/243 of 23 December 2003 and other resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,
>
> "*Recalling also* the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the acknowledgement that the

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/59/483 and Add.1-8.

04-64936 (E) 171204

global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

"*Recalling further* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002, and the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties held in Milan, Italy, from 1 to 12 December 2003,

"*Remaining deeply concerned* that all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks from the negative impacts of climate change,

"*Noting* that one hundred and eighty-nine States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention,

"*Noting also* that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has attracted one hundred and twenty-six ratifications, including from parties mentioned in annex I to the Convention, which account for 44.2 per cent of emissions,

"*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

"1. *Calls upon* States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

"2. *Notes* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change strongly urge States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner;

"3. *Notes with interest* the preparations undertaken for the implementation of the flexible mechanisms established by the Kyoto Protocol;

"4. *Welcomes* the decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session on the Special Climate Change Fund and the Least Developed Country Fund and urges donor countries to make financial contributions for the operationalization of the funds;

"5. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or

Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

"6. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

"7. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

"8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the sub-item entitled 'Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind'."

3. At the 36th meeting, on 24 November 2004, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ewa Anzorge (Poland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/59/L.30), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.13. At the same time, the Vice-Chairperson orally corrected draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.30 by replacing, in the eighth preambular paragraph, the words "by continuing to provide support for the Panel" by the words "through continuing support to the Panel".

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.30, as orally corrected (see para. 7).

5. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Benin and the Niger; after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro; and the EFTA country Norway), New Zealand and the United States of America.

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.30, draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.13 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and its resolutions 56/199 of 21 December 2001, 57/257 of 20 December 2002 and 58/243 of 23 December 2003 and other resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

Recalling also the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1] including the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

Recalling further the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[2] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[3] the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002,[4] and the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties held in Milan, Italy, from 1 to 12 December 2003,[5]

Noting the review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States ("Barbados Programme of Action");[6]

Remaining deeply concerned that all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks from the negative impacts of climate change,

Noting that one hundred and eighty-nine States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention,

---

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[4] FCCC/CP/2002/7/Add.1, decision I/CP.8.

[5] FCCC/CP/2003/6/Add.1.

[6] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Noting also that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[7] has attracted one hundred and twenty-eight ratifications, including from parties mentioned in annex I to the Convention, which account for 61.6 per cent of emissions,

Noting the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the need to build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, inter alia, through continuing support to the Panel for the exchange of scientific data and information, especially in developing countries,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[8] in which heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,[9]

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,[10]

1. *Calls upon* States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;[1]

2. *Notes* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[7] strongly urge States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner;

3. *Notes also* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol welcome its ratification by the Russian Federation, which satisfies the requirements for the Kyoto Protocol to enter into force;

4. *Encourages* States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to continue their preparations for its entry into force;

5. *Notes with interest* the preparations undertaken for the implementation of the flexible mechanisms established by the Kyoto Protocol;

6. *Takes note* of the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session[5] and calls for their implementation;

7. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[11] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[12] and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

---

[7] FCCC/CP/1997/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.
[8] See resolution 55/2.
[9] Ibid., para. 23.
[10] See A/59/197, sect. I.
[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.
[12] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

8. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

9. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

United Nations A/59/483/Add.5

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 December 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 85 (e)

Sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Azanaw Tadesse **Abreha** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 85 (see A/59/483, para. 2). Action on sub-item (e) was taken at the 18th and 36th meetings, on 27 October and 24 November 2004. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/59/SR.18 and 36).

II. Consideration of proposals

Draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.14 and A/C.2/59/L.46

2. At the 18th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/59/L.14), which read:

> *"The General Assembly,*
>
> "*Recalling* its resolution 58/242 of 23 December 2003 and other resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/59/483 and Add.1-8.

04-64905 (E) 181204

"*Recalling also* its resolution 58/211 of 23 December 2003, in which it declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

"*Reaffirming* that the Convention is an important tool for poverty eradication, and that desertification contributes to food insecurity, famine and poverty and can give rise to the social, economic and political tensions that are factors in forced migrations and conflict,

"*Also reaffirming* that desertification constitutes a serious obstacle to sustainable development,

"*Noting* that timely and effective implementation of the Convention would help to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, given the concentration of poverty and hunger in the rural, dry and degraded lands of developing countries,

"*Expressing concern* about the insufficient resources allocated to the focal area of sustainable land management in the current financial cycle of the Global Environment Facility,

"*Stressing* the need for more funding from various sources to address land degradation,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Stresses* the importance of the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, for meeting the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and, in this regard, invites all Governments to take further measures to strengthen the implementation of the Convention;

"3. *Invites* the Secretary-General to give due consideration to the role and place of the Convention in ongoing work in the context of the preparations for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly in 2005, including the report of the Millennium Project;

"4. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to provide additional resources to its focal area on sustainable land management in its current financial cycle and calls upon the Facility, in the forthcoming replenishment process, to increase the level of resources allocated to this focal area as a means of strengthening the implementation of the Convention;

"5. *Takes note with great interest* of ongoing efforts to diversify the availability of financial resources to support activities aimed at combating desertification and poverty, as called for by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its sixth session;

"6. *Invites* the donor community to increase its support to the Convention with a view to achieving a global coalition for combating land degradation and desertification that will contribute to the improvement of the global environment and to the sustainable development of dry lands;

"7. *Urges* the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility and the secretariat of the Convention to finalize the memorandum of understanding in

an expeditious way and to submit it, for consideration and adoption, to the Conference of Parties to the Convention at its next session and to the Global Environment Facility Council at a subsequent meeting;

"8. *Urges* United Nations funds, programmes and regional commissions, development agencies, the Bretton Woods institutions and donor countries to integrate actions in support of the Convention into their programmes and strategies in order to support the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

"9. *Calls upon* Governments, in collaboration with relevant multilateral organizations including the Global Environment Facility implementation agencies, as appropriate, to integrate desertification into their plans and strategies for sustainable development;

"10. *Urges* all parties to the Convention to undertake special initiatives in observance of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification and, as far as they are able, to support the related activities organized by the secretariat;

"11. *Reiterates* its invitation to all parties to pay promptly and in full the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention for the biennium 2004-2005, and urges all parties that have not yet paid their contributions for 1999 and/or the bienniums 2000-2001 and 2002-2003 to do so as soon as possible in order to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

"12. *Calls upon* Governments, and invites multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations and all other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, and welcomes the financial support already provided by some countries;

"13. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

"14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

"15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the sub-item entitled 'Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa'."

3. At the 36th meeting, on 24 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Ewa Anzorge (Poland) introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/59/L.46), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.14.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see para. 6, draft resolution).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.46, draft resolution A/C.2/59.L.14 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Draft resolution
Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 58/242 of 23 December 2003 and other resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

Recalling also its resolution 58/211 of 23 December 2003, in which it declared 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification,

Reaffirming that desertification constitutes a serious obstacle to sustainable development and contributes to food insecurity, famine and poverty, which are factors that can give rise to social, economic and political tensions, including forced migration and conflicts, and that the Convention is an important tool for poverty eradication,

Also reaffirming the universal membership of the Convention, and acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of a global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world,

Noting that timely and effective implementation of the Convention would help to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2]

Emphasizing the need for the provision of adequate resources for the focal area of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, of the Global Environment Facility,

Stressing the need for further diversification of funding sources to address land degradation, in accordance with articles 20 and 21 of the Convention,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Stresses* the importance of the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1] for meeting the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] and in this regard invites all Governments to take further measures to strengthen the implementation of the Convention;

---

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] See A/59/197, sect. II.

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General to give due consideration to the role and place of the Convention in ongoing work in the context of the preparations for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly in 2005, including the report of the Millennium Project;

4. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to strengthen the focal area of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation;

5. *Takes note with interest* of ongoing efforts to diversify the availability of financial resources to support activities aimed at combating desertification and poverty;

6. *Invites* the donor community to increase its support to the Convention with a view to bringing greater international attention to bear on the issue of land degradation and desertification, which will contribute to the improvement of the sustainable development of drylands and the global environment;

7. *Invites* the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility and the secretariat of the Convention to finalize the draft memorandum of understanding in an expeditious way and to submit it, as mandated by Conference of the Parties decision 6/COP.6 of 3 September 2003, for the consideration of and adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;

8. *Takes note* of Conference of the Parties decision 23/COP.6 of 5 September 2003 on the programme and budget for the biennium 2004-2005, as an ongoing process of the Conference of the Parties to undertake a comprehensive review of the activities of the secretariat, as defined in article 23, paragraph 2, of the Convention, and looks forward to the review at the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

9. *Urges* United Nations funds and programmes, the Bretton Woods institutions, the donor countries and other development agencies to integrate actions in support of the Convention into their strategies to support the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

10. *Calls upon* Governments, where appropriate, in collaboration with relevant multilateral organizations, including the Global Environment Facility implementation agencies, to integrate desertification into their plans and strategies for sustainable development;

11. *Encourages* countries to undertake special initiatives in observance of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification and, as they are able, to contribute to its preparatory process;

12. *Reiterates* the invitation to all parties to pay promptly and in full the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention for the biennium 2004-2005, and urges all parties that have not yet paid their contributions for 1999 and/or the bienniums 2000-2001 and 2002-2003 to do so as soon as possible in order to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

13. *Calls upon* Governments, and invites multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations and all

other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties,[4] and welcomes the financial support already provided by some countries;

14. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[6] and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa".

---

[4] ICCD/COP (1)/11/Add.1 and Corr.1, decision 2/COP.1, annex, paras. 7-11.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[6] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

United Nations A/59/483/Add.6

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 December 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 85 (f)

Sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Azanaw Tadesse **Abreha** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 85 (see A/59/483, para. 2). Action on sub-item (f) was taken at the 18th and 37th meetings, on 27 October and 3 December 2004. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/59/SR.18 and 37).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.12 and A/C.2/59/L.55

2. At the 18th meeting, on 27 October 2004, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/C.2/59/L.12), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000, 56/197 of 21 December 2001, 57/253 and 57/260 of 20 December 2002 and 58/212 of 23 December 2003,

"*Reiterating* that the Convention on Biological Diversity is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/59/483 and Add.1-8.

04-64942 (E) 171204

"*Recalling* the World Summit on Sustainable Development commitments to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require action at all levels, including the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries,

"*Recalling also* the commitment made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to negotiate within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources,

"*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Government of Malaysia for hosting the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held in Kuala Lumpur, from 9 to 20 and on 27 February and from 23 to 27 February 2004, respectively,

"*Expressing its deep appreciation also* to the Government of Brazil for its offer to host the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to be held in the first half of 2006,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, transmitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

"2. *Takes note also* of the outcome of the seventh meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the outcome of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

"3. *Welcomes* the decision of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to elaborate and negotiate an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing;

"4. *Notes* the progress made by the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in establishing an operational framework for the implementation of the Protocol and reiterates that the effective implementation of the Protocol will require the full support of Parties and Governments and of relevant international organizations, in particular with regard to the provision of assistance to developing countries in capacity-building for biosafety;

"5. *Invites* the countries that have not yet done so to ratify or to accede to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

"6. *Invites* the parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity to consider doing so;

"7. *Encourages* developed countries parties to the Convention to contribute to the relevant trust funds of the Convention, in particular so as to enhance the full participation of the developing countries parties in all of its activities;

"8. *Urges* parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions;

"9. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

"10. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue reporting to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention, including its Cartagena Protocol;

"11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Convention on Biological Diversity'."

3. At the 37th meeting, on 3 December 2004, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ewa Anzorge (Poland), introduced and orally corrected a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/C.2/59/L.55), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.12 (see A/C.2/59/SR.37).

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.55, as orally corrected (see para. 6).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.55, draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.12 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000, 56/197 of 21 December 2001, 57/253 and 57/260 of 20 December 2002 and 58/212 of 23 December 2003,

Reiterating that the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

Recalling the World Summit on Sustainable Development commitments to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require action at all levels, including the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries,

Taking note of the entry into force of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the objectives of which are the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for hosting the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held in Kuala Lumpur, from 9 to 20 and on 27 February and from 23 to 27 February 2004, respectively,

Expressing its deep appreciation also to the Government of Brazil for its offer to host the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to be held in the first half of 2006,

Noting the efforts of the Government of France to organize a biodiversity-related conference in Paris in 2005,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, transmitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;[2]

---

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[2] See A/59/197, sect. III.

2. *Takes note also of* the outcome of the seventh meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity[2] and the outcome of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,[2] and urges all parties to these respective agreements to implement their decisions;

3. *Notes* the recent progress made with respect to the achievement of the three objectives set out in the Convention on Biological Diversity;

4. *Notes also* the progress made at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in establishing an operational framework for the implementation of the Protocol and reiterates that the effective implementation of the Protocol will require the full support of parties and of relevant international organizations, in particular with regard to the provision of assistance to developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition in capacity-building for biosafety;

5. *Invites* the countries that have not yet done so to ratify or to accede to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

6. *Invites* the parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity[3] to consider doing so;

7. *Invites* countries to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

8. *Encourages* developed countries parties to the Convention to contribute to the relevant trust funds of the Convention, in particular so as to enhance the full participation of the developing countries parties in all of its activities;

9. *Urges* parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions;

10. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[4] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[5] and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

11. *Stresses* the importance of harmonizing the reporting requirements of the biodiversity-related conventions while respecting their independent legal status;

12. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue reporting to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention, including its Cartagena Protocol;

---

[3] See UNEP/CBD/ExCOP/1/3 and Corr.1, part two, annex.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[5] Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

United Nations A/59/483/Add.7

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 December 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 85 (g)

Sustainable development: United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Azanaw Tadesse **Abreha** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 85 (see A/59/483, para. 2). Action on sub-item (g) was taken at the 18th and 27th meetings, on 27 October and 5 November 2004. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/59/SR.18 and 27).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.9 and A/C.2/59/L.24

2. At the 18th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Japan introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/59/L.9). Subsequently, Algeria, Andorra, Cambodia, China, El Salvador, Gabon, Iceland, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Lithuania, the Marshall Islands, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Uganda and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* chapter 36 of Agenda 21, on promoting education, public awareness and training, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/59/483 and Add.1-8.

04-64924 (E) 171204

"*Recalling also* the work programme on education, public awareness and training, adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session in 1996 and elaborated upon at its sixth session in 1998,

"*Recalling further* the relevant provisions of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation') on education, in particular its provision 124 (d) on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 57/254 of 20 December 2002 and 58/219 of 23 December 2003,

"*Welcoming* the fact that the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eleventh session, identified education as one of the cross-cutting issues of its multi-year programme of work,

"*Reaffirming* the internationally agreed development goal of achieving universal primary education, in particular that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling,

"*Taking note* of the oral report provided by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly regarding its preparations for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,

"*Emphasizing* that education is an indispensable element for achieving sustainable development,

"1. *Reaffirms* that education for sustainable development is critical for promoting sustainable development and in this regard recalls that the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development will begin on 1 January 2005;

"2. *Takes note* of the draft International Implementation Scheme, prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in coordination with other relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, and requests the organization, as the designated lead agency, to continue to promote the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, in cooperation with Governments, the United Nations and other relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders;

"3. *Calls upon* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to distribute the draft International Implementation Scheme to all Member States for their comments, with a view to expeditiously finalizing the Scheme;

"4. *Encourages* Governments to consider the inclusion of measures to implement the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in their respective educational strategies and national development plans by 2005, in consultation with all stakeholders and taking into account, as appropriate, the finalized International Implementation Scheme;

"5. *Invites* Governments to promote public awareness of and wider participation in the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, including through cooperation with and initiatives engaging civil society and other relevant stakeholders, especially at the beginning of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to prepare a report on the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, for submission to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session under the sub-item entitled 'Mid-term review of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development'."

3. At the 27th meeting, on 5 November, the Facilitator, Eva Tomič (Slovenia), on behalf of the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Ewa Anzorge (Poland), introduced and orally corrected a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/59/L.24), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.9.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.24, as orally corrected (see para. 6).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.24, draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.9 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling chapter 36 of Agenda 21,[1] on promoting education, public awareness and training, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992,

Recalling also the work programme on education, public awareness and training initiated by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session in 1996[2] and elaborated upon at its sixth session in 1998,[3]

Recalling further the relevant provisions of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[4] on education to promote sustainable development, in particular its provision 124,

Recalling its resolutions 57/254 of 20 December 2002 and 58/219 of 23 December 2003,

Underlining in this regard the fact that the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development shall begin on 1 January 2005,

Welcoming the fact that the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eleventh session, identified education as one of the cross-cutting issues of its multi-year programme of work,[5]

Reaffirming the internationally agreed development goal of achieving universal primary education, in particular that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that boys and girls will have equal access to all levels of education,

Taking note of the oral report presented on 18 October 2004 at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly by the Assistant Secretary-General for Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization regarding its preparations for the Decade,[6]

---

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 8* (E/1996/28), chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/11, para. 2.

[3] Ibid., *1998, Supplement No. 9* (E/1998/29), chap. I, sect. B, decision 6/3, sect. C.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[5] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/61 of 25 July 2003.

[6] See A/C.2/59/SR.14.

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,[7] in particular the reference to the issue "Learning to live with risk", as regards the need to focus on education and awareness, linked with the Decade, to be considered at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, to be held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005,[8]

Emphasizing that education is an indispensable element for achieving sustainable development,

1. *Reaffirms* that education for sustainable development is critical for promoting sustainable development;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the designated lead agency, to promote the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, in coordination with other relevant United Nations organizations and programmes, while taking into account the special needs of developing countries;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to call upon the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to finalize the draft international implementation scheme for the Decade as soon as possible, preferably by the beginning of the Decade, in consultation with Governments, the United Nations and relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, while clarifying its relationship with the existing educational processes, in particular the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum[9] and the United Nations Literacy Decade;[10]

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to call upon the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to submit the draft international implementation scheme to the governing bodies of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for their final consideration and adoption;

5. *Encourages* Governments to consider the inclusion, especially upon completion and adoption of the international implementation scheme, of measures to implement the Decade in their respective educational systems and strategies and, where appropriate, national development plans;

6. *Invites* Governments to promote public awareness of and wider participation in the Decade, inter alia, through cooperation with and initiatives engaging civil society and other relevant stakeholders, especially at the beginning of the Decade;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to prepare a mid-term review of the implementation of the Decade, for submission to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session under the sub-item entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development".

---

[7] A/59/228.

[8] Ibid., para. 8.

[9] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

[10] See resolution 56/116.

United Nations A/59/483/Add.8

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 December 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 85 (h)

Sustainable development: rendering assistance to the poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Azanaw Tadesse **Abreha** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 85 (see A/59/483, para. 2). Action on sub-item (h) was taken at the 38th and 39th meetings, on 7 and 14 December 2004. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/59/SR.38 and 39).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.61 and A/C.2/59/L.61/Rev.1

2. At the 38th meeting, on 7 December, the representative of Kyrgyzstan, on behalf of Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Rendering assistance to the poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas" (A/C.2/59/L.61). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Bolivia and Costa Rica joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, by which it proclaimed 2002 the International Year of Mountains,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/59/483 and Add.1-8.

04-65181 (E) 171204

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 55/189 of 20 December 2000, 57/245 of 20 December 2002 and 58/203 and 58/216 of 23 December 2003,

"*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted on 8 September 2000,

"*Recognizing* the socio-economic and ecological challenges often faced by the poor mountain countries, where, for the most part, the territory is located in alpine regions difficult of access,

"*Underlining* the fact that there remain key challenges to implementing socio-economic development and eradicating poverty in mountain regions,

"*Stressing* the need to create international economic conditions reflecting the higher vulnerability of mountain regions,

"*Noting* that the continuing debt and debt-servicing obligations of developing countries, in particular the poor mountain countries, constitute an element that adversely affects their development,

"1. *Recommends* the donor countries and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to take appropriate debt relief measures for poor mountain countries through such actions as debt relief and, as appropriate, debt cancellation;

"2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session."

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Nepal and Benin (see A/C.2/59/SR.38).

4. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chairman of the Committee, Marco Balarezo (Peru) (see A/C.2/59/SR.38).

5. At its 39th meeting, on 14 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution, entitled "Rendering assistance to poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas" (A/C.2/59/L.61/Rev.1).

6. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Vice-Chairman, Ewa Anzorge (Poland) (see A/C.2/59/SR.39).

7. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.61/Rev.1 (see para. 9).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Kyrgyzstan.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Rendering assistance to poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, by which it proclaimed 2002 the International Year of Mountains,

Recalling also its resolutions 55/189 of 20 December 2000, 57/245 of 20 December 2002 and 58/216 of 23 December 2003,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] adopted on 8 September 2000,

Recalling chapter 13 of Agenda 21[2] and all relevant paragraphs of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[3] in particular paragraph 42 thereof, as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable development in mountain regions,

Decides to consider the sub-item "Rendering assistance to poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas" at its sixtieth session, under the agenda item "Sustainable development", bearing in mind its resolution 58/216.

---

[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.